

THE GATEWAY

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GOT GAME The Golden Bears basketball team upset Saskatchewan on the road in the Central Division championship.

World activism on the rise: Lewis

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

Three years ago, journalist Avi Lewis quit his job as the host of CBC's *CounterSpin* to spend a year in Argentina, capturing the experiences of local activists in the documentary *The Take*.

The well-known political and social commentator collaborated with fellow journalist and *No Logo* author Naomi Klein to tell the story of Argentine workers reclaiming closed factories after losing their jobs during Argentina's 2001 economic collapse. The factories were shut down after the mass privatization of Argentine industry, which left thousands of workers unemployed.

"I wanted to make a documentary film, and try to dig a little bit deeper into what I think before 11 September was the defining political debate of our time—whether this mushy, indefinable thing that we call globalization is actually benefiting people equally, both within countries and between countries," said Lewis, the son of the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis.

This Wednesday night, the journalist will be on campus to deliver a talk for the SU's Revolutionary Speaker Series entitled "We know what you're against, but what are you for?" The talk will focus on the Argentine workers movement, and its relevance to Canadian activism.

For the self-described "shidisturber," the Argentine movement is a telling example of citizens taking direct democratic action to make change. While the factory workers had little power to bring about change by electing more effective leaders, unemployed

workers formed their own democratic co-operatives to get back to work, and revive their communities.

"I think it's a really powerful example that resonates very strongly with Canadians," explained Lewis.

"You guys live more or less in a Soviet, one-party state—Albertistan, I like to call it, just to annoy people."

AVI LEWIS,
JOURNALIST AND
DIRECTOR OF THE TAKE

"I want to share with the [U of A] community some of that spirit and to draw some of the connections between what I've been learning about Argentina, and what's been happening in Canada, both in terms of the destructive effects of this economic model, and ways in which people are resisting and building alternatives."

Like Argentina, Canada has been affected by a political and economic trend that has caused the shrinking of government and the public sphere in an effort to boost business interests, Lewis explained. Alberta is particularly indicative of this trend, he added, noting that Alberta has one of the lowest welfare rates in the country, and a homeless population that has grown 60 per cent in the last two years.

"You guys live more or less in a Soviet, one-party state—Albertistan, I like to call it, just to annoy people," Lewis joked.

PLEASE SEE *THE TAKE* • PAGE 4

Physicists hope to find the elusive subatomic particle

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

The stars in the London Planetary inspired six-year-old James Pinfold to dedicate himself to physics. Years later and all grown up, the U of A researcher is part of a worldwide team on the path to discovering an elusive particle that could prove or refute a central theory of subatomic physics, the study of particles within the atom.

"The essence of the project is to understand the most fundamental nature of matter—at the root, what everything is made up of," he explained.

Pinfold, his graduate student Andrew Hamilton, and his colleagues at the Centre Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), a subatomic physics research centre in Geneva, Switzerland, are working on designing experiments to discover the Higgs boson, the one hypothesized particle in subatomic physical theory whose existence has yet to be confirmed with concrete data.

They are working to design and build experiments, which will be executed in the spring of 2007 using a large hadron collider (LHC), a machine that makes particles run into each other.

PLEASE SEE *BOZON* • PAGE 4

Students spend five days homeless

Business students use homeless stint to raise awareness of the growing problem

ASIA SZKULAREK
News Writer

While many people choose to contribute to charities through volunteer work or monetary donations, three U of A students have opted for a more hands-on approach.

Starting at midnight this past Sunday, business students Clark Barr, Frank Callele, and Rob Hart took up a week-long residence on campus. The group is living in University buildings as part of the Five Days for the Homeless campaign, a project they started to increase awareness about homelessness and to raise money for Edmonton's Youth Emergency Shelter Society.

"We're going to go without any type of aid that everyone takes for granted," explained Callele, next year's vice-president (events) for the Business Students' Association (BSA).

"We all come from privileged families, so we thought [being homeless] would be an eye-opener for us as well."

ROB HART,
U OF A BUSINESS STUDENT

Each of the participants was given a pillow, blanket, and change of clothes, but will depend on the goodwill of fellow students for food and extras such as toiletries and soap.

Barr, the current BSA vice-president (internal) and next year's president-elect, says the idea stemmed from a fraternity initiative a few years ago that raised awareness of disability.

"They put a bunch of their members in wheelchairs, so we had the same idea to do that for the homeless," he said.

"We all come from privileged families, so we thought [being homeless] would be an eye-opener for us as well," added Hart.

PLEASE SEE *HOMELESS* • PAGE 3

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Step up to the bar

David Berry has some advice for the SU if they want to increase the profitability of campus bars.

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Going, going, gonzo

The *Gateway* reflects on the passing of revolutionary journalist/journalism enthusiast Hunter S Thompson.

A&E, PAGE 16

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colophon

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are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the
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The masthead is the Gateway's sister page. The Gateway's
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Study reveals heart transplants okay for seniors

CILLIÖ FEDRO
News WriterHeart transplants among the elderly
have long been thought of as risky
endeavors. But a recent U of A study
shows that age shouldn't be a deter-
mining factor when choosing heart-
transplant recipients.Dr Shaohua Wang, the lead author,
explained that the study found virtually
no difference between the success rates
of heart transplants in recipients 60
years and older and recipients 18 to 59
years of age. Other criteria had a greater
bearing on transplant success, includ-
ing matching blood groups between
donors and recipients, and coupling
people of similar height and weight."We didn't find any difference
between the older group and the
younger group in terms of transplant
rejection, long-term survival and infec-
tion between the two groups," said
Wang.The study, recently published in the
Journal of Cardiac Surgery, involved
275 adult patients who received a heart
transplant at the U of A Hospital between
1990 and 2000. Researchers found no
significant differences between the 225
recipients who were younger than 60
when they received their new hearts,
and the 50 heart-transplant recipients
who were older than 60.

However, Barbara Russell, an assis-

tant clinical professor at the U of A,
said that from an ethical standpoint
there are arguments made to priori-
tize younger people over older people
for transplantation. Russell drew from
an argument made by American bio-
ethicist Robert Veatch to explain one
issue of transplantation ethics.**"For heart transplant
programs around
the world, usually the
practice has been not
to put a heart into a
person more than 60
years of age."**DR SHAOHUA WANG,
AUTHOR OF TRANSPLANT STUDY"Veatch's one argument about
age that would justify allocating an
organ to a younger person versus
an older person would be that the
younger person has just not had the
same opportunity at life as the older
person," she explained."It's not evaluating the quality of
those lives; it's just the opportunity."Traditionally, age has been a dis-
criminating factor in determining
recipients, said Wang, whose researchis making strides towards removing
the age bias from transplantation."For heart-transplant programs
around the world, usually the practice
has been not to put a heart into a person
more than 60 years of age," he said."But as the biggest heart transplant
program in Canada, we have always
been more aggressive."Review committees at the U of A
determine transplant recipients using
the same criteria for all people regard-
less of age. Russell explained that age
can factor into the committee's deci-
sion on the basis of clinical reasons."We take into account all kinds of
factors. How relatively healthy is a
person's body and age can contribute
to that," she explained."It's not absolute, but obviously the
body of a 70-year-old person will be
much different physiologically than a
20-year-old just because of normal
wear and tear on a body."But due to the scarcity of hearts
available for transplant, the ques-
tion of who is most entitled, ethically
speaking, still needs to be addressed,
said Russell."If there's maybe one way that
age could be very relevant it's when
comparing a 25-year-old and a 65-
year-old, or even a 20-year-old and a
35-year-old [as heart transplant candi-
dates]... It's compelling and needs to
be answered."HEART
FACTS

- Since the first heart transplant performed in December 1967 in Cape Town, South Africa, medical science has come a long way. The patient, aged 53, only lived for 18 days, whereas today 90 per cent of heart-transplant recipients usually survive the first year.

- On average, 65 per cent of recipients live at least five years and 60 per cent are alive ten years after the surgery. But Wang explained that there is no time limit on the lifespan of a heart transplant recipient.

- The first heart transplant [at the U of A] was done in 1985 and the patient is still alive today.

- In 2004, the heart transplant survival rate for first-time recipients treated in Canada in 1996 and 2001 reached 78 per cent, up from 72 per cent in 1990 and 1995

(Source: the Canadian Institute for Health Information).

CAMPUS
CRIME BEATCompiled by Cosanna Preston
(cosanna@gateway.ualberta.ca)

FD LIKE TO SIGN IN

At 11:30am on 21 February, Campus 5-0 observed a male in the HUB/Rutherford passway. He approached 5-0 and asked where he could "sign in." The male was extremely disoriented, stating he suffered from mental illness. He also had an extensive criminal record. The male was transported to the hospital, but his admittance was refused.

GET A ROOM!

Around 4pm on 21 February, 5-0 found a female student giving a hand job to her male peer on the couches near CABS Tim Hortons. They were given stern warnings and told to seek a more suitable venue.

FAMILIAR FACES

On 22 February at 2pm, male and female were found soliciting for money on 112 St and 8th Ave. Both were well-known to Campus Security and were banned from all University property due to extensive criminal histories. Summons for trespassing were also issued and both were escorted off campus.

ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY

On 22 February at 2:30pm, constables on foot patrol came across a disturbance at the HUB Mall LRT station. Three non-affiliated youths were observed arguing with another older non-affiliated male. Upon seeing the constables, the older male left the area immediately. The youths then claimed that the male had just attempted to rob them with a knife. An extensive search was conducted by 5-0 and the male was located a short time later. With the assistance of EPS his knife was seized and he was successfully arrested without incident. Charges are still pending.

B&E IN-HOUSE

At 3am on 23 February, Campus 5-0 received an intrusion alarm from an internal monitoring system for an office in International House. When the constables responded, a non-affiliated male was located inside. The constables arrested the male for breaking and entering and turned the man over to EPS.

TOPLESS BRIGADE

At 1am on 24 February, student auxiliary officers on foot patrol in HUB Mall observed a group of females running topless down the hall. Once stopped, the topless members were identified as students and told to return to their HUB suites immediately.

GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL, DO NOT PASS GO.

On 22 February around 3pm Campus Security responded to a disturbance in progress at the Varsity store in HUB Mall. A non-affiliated and previously banned male had been stopped by store staff (with the help of several bystand-

ers) after he was caught attempting to steal merchandise. The male was subsequently arrested and the investigation revealed he was already on probation for theft. Back to jail he went.

MALLRATS AT TACAN

At 7:53pm on 24 February, Campus Security located a large group of non-affiliated youths loitering in HUB Mall. Five of them had extensive criminal records. All were issued trespass notices and some were also issued summons for underage smoking. They were subsequently escorted off campus.

ON THE RUN

On 25 February a non-affiliated male ran into HUB Mall and requested assistance after being allegedly chased by a group of males. The incident stemmed from an incident at the Coliseum LRT station. An extensive search was conducted, but the group of males was not located. It is believed they left the area once Campus 5-0 was contacted.

STREETERS

The SU elections are coming up and campaigning is underway.

What do you think of this year's candidate posters?

Erin Will
Engineering IVVeronica Iv
Agriculture IVAshley Yu
Science IIArthur House
Engineering I

Honestly, I think they're kind of ugly and this is probably one of my least favourite times of year, seeing all these posters everywhere. But, I guess it's important that students know the names of every-one they can vote for.

I think there are many of them, and that's good. I didn't know about the elections, so I have a bit more information [now].

They're actually not too bad. Last year they were kind of racy and stuff, and I was kind of turned off by the election.

I've only seen Wayne Poon's poster. I'm an engineer, so I recognized the name. It's big. And the guy seems like a party animal, so he might be an interesting character to vote for, I guess.

Compiled and photographed by Alexander Witt, Caitlin Crawshaw and James Storrie

Iranian activist questions use of Sharia law in Canadian provinces

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Writer

In 1989, women's rights advocate Homa Arjomand and her husband paid smugglers \$15 000 to flee Iran with their two young children. Had she stayed, Arjomand would have been executed because of her activism.

Today, more than a decade later, she's still fighting against the oppression of Muslim women, but this time it's in Canada.

Since the 1991 Ontario Arbitration Act, people wanting to settle family-law and inheritance issues outside of Canadian courts may do so by consulting faith-based arbitrators. This provision has led to the growing use of Sharia law—the basis of Islamic law—within Muslim communities in Ontario.

"To myself and other opponents of Sharia law this is a sign of political Islam; they are trying to interfere with the justice system," Arjomand said.

Arjomand questions the fairness of decisions made using Sharia law, which is based on a 1300-year-old body of laws and rules for living, inspired by Islam's holy book, the Qur'an.

"At that time it was still slavery for women. Women were not considered people; they were not allowed equal rights with the men," Arjomand said.

"The law itself in Sharia is anti-woman," she added.

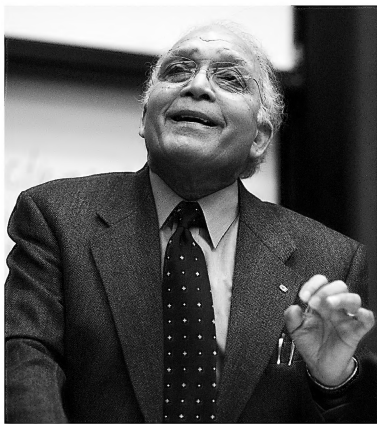
Supporters of Sharia law argue that tribunals are consulted only after securing the consent of all parties involved.

But Arjomand worries that due to intense social pressure, women in tightly-knit Islamic communities are unable to refuse Sharia law.

According to Arjomand, the abuses that women can suffer under Sharia law varies. She believes that the only way to protect her gender is by reinforcing the use of one law for one country.

"You can name the abuse from financial, to physical, to even isolation—which is mental—to even honour killing, which is death," Arjomand said.

"If the Canadian government does not validate any kind of faith-based court, and therefore it would only be one secular court, these women wouldn't have to face the social pressure."



SHARIA LAW "ANTI-WOMAN" Dr Saleem Qureshi cautions against such labels.

But according to Abdul Hameed, Edmonton president of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada (ISCC), saying Sharia law is against women is an uneducated stance.

"There [are] a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings [of] the Sharia laws," Hameed said.

"If people were to read Islam and study Islam along with the Sharia laws, then they [would be unable to] say that Islam or Sharia laws [are] against women."

Hameed believes there's been a lot of unwarranted fear mongering surrounding Sharia law and is adamant that the use of Sharia law doesn't disregard Canadian laws.

"When we are living over here we have to obey the Canadian laws too," Hameed said.

Dr Saleem Qureshi—who is himself Muslim, though not a practicing one—spoke at the faculty of law at the beginning of February, where he presented his perspectives on Sharia law and how it affects society from the standpoint of a political scientist.

"There's a difference between faith and belief on the one side and something that pertains to society on the other side," Qureshi said.

"The regulations [in] the Qur'an pertain to obeying God's commands in order to achieve God's pleasure and ultimately paradise. But [it is] a mistake [to assume] that what is intended for God's pleasure is also equivalent to something that is intended for public order."

And although Sharia law has not been established in other parts of Canada, Qureshi rebuked the assumption that Sharia law is solely an Ontario issue.

"Don't think [Albertans] are immune to [it]," he warned.

Qureshi also expressed concern that Muslim women may be incorrect to believe they have escaped a repressive society.

"What I'm seeing is that Muslim women are going to be kept in a dependent position even in Canada, as they have been kept in dependent positions in the Muslim countries, and that is what my criticism is about," Qureshi said.

However, Qureshi noted that not all Muslim women are denied a public voice.

"It is ironic that the largest number of female political leaders has come from Muslim countries," Qureshi said.

Homeless stint gathers unexpected support

HOMELESS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Not only will the students live outside of their homes, they will also attend classes while participating in the campaign.

And, to up the ante further, some nights, weather permitting, the group will sleep outdoors.

"Homeless people are worrying about food and where they're going to sleep at night. They can't even think about university," Barr said.

"Tuition's gone up, sure, but if you can't even get a meal in your mouth, how can you even consider university?"

Barr is concerned about increasing levels of local homelessness, especially around the University area and thinks that the initiative can provide students with a fresh perspective on the problem.

"Considering that we live in the wealthiest province in Canada in

one of the wealthiest nations in the world ... it's pretty sad. We need to get the word out there so we can start improving these people's situations," he added.

"We've already received e-mails from overseas, and we're getting support from the business and education faculties. We feel like we're getting a lot more support than we ever anticipated."

FRANK CALLEE,
VICE-PRESIDENT (EVENTS) ELECT,
BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Financially speaking, campaign organizers aimed to raise \$1000 for Edmonton's Youth Emergency Shelter, but the unexpected goodwill of donors shocked organizers when half of the target amount was handled met before the homeless week even began.

"We've already received e-mails from overseas, and we're getting support from the business and education faculties," said Callele.

"We feel like we're getting a lot more support than we ever anticipated."

Donations for the campaign can be dropped off at the School of Business general office, as well as at the BSA office.

Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$10.

"We feel that if everyone supports us just a little bit, this will far surpass anything that we thought it would ever become," said Callele.

EDMONTON'S

BIGGEST Patrick's Day
St. PATRICK'S PARTY at 
GLOBE
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March 17th

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Extended Bar Run 10:30-2am
COCKTAIL SPEAR

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 4 & 5

Scientists worldwide work together on particle search

BOZON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The researchers hope that the product of the collisions will be the Higgs boson, and if not it, then another previously unobserved particle. While the entire project will total \$4 billion US, the LHC itself will be seven stories high and weigh approximately 10 000 tons.

"We're going to make a discovery at the LHC because that machine must see the Higgs boson ... or else discover new physics," explained Pinfold.

Pinfold is excited about the project, and emphasized that the outcome of the trials, whatever it may be, will definitely lead to discovery and further insight into the world of physics.

"If we find the standard-model Higgs, that means the traditional view of things holds ground. If we don't find the Higgs, then the standard model is out. Either way, it's a discovery. We could also find a new Higgs boson that isn't related to the standard model, but related to a theory," he said.

The LHC project at CERN is due to the cooperative effort of 144 institutions worldwide, including other Canadian universities like the University of Toronto and Simon Fraser University.

"CERN itself is an international agency like the UN or WHO, and it's

one of the most spectacular examples of international cooperation," Pinfold explained.

"It's a place where everyone works together successfully; it's a great example of sharing of physics culture across the world," he said.

Pinfold explained that although discovering the Higgs boson would support current subatomic physics dogma, seeing something different than the predicted particle would be equally intriguing.

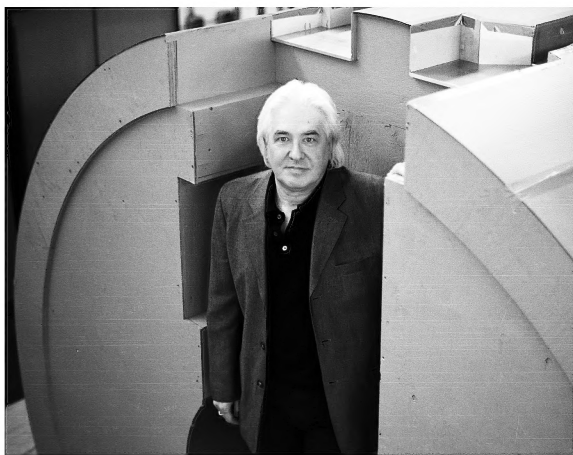
"Many theorists and experimentalists think there's a deeper underlying theory to the standard model," he said.

Pinfold remarked that research projects like this one could potentially lead to discoveries that would help solve contemporary mysteries like how the Big Bang occurred.

"This will help us to answer questions like, 'What happened at the birth of the universe?'" he said.

He also emphasized the importance of recognizing the large scope of pure sciences, like physics, and the important role that they play in society.

"I think physics is like the great art of music or acting. It's a cultural event that mankind is involved in. It is our attempt to uncover the roots of things," he explained.



CAN YOU FIND THE BOZON? Dr James Pinfold hopes the U of A's new equipment can find it ... or maybe something else. BIS TSE

Pinfold and his team will continue preparations for the experiment with excitement and anticipation.

"We feel a bit like we're like Christopher Columbus and his crew

going out there to discover a new world. Except our new world lies deep inside this world," he said.

"The big thing here is that at CERN,

using the LHC, we are guaranteed to make a discovery. We're going out there in our ship like Christopher Columbus, and we're almost certainly going to see a new land."

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees and Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2005.

Undergraduate and graduate students (except as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2005, and ending April 30, 2006. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/2nd & 4th Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies.	ONE undergraduate (Undergraduate students who have transferred from an Alberta college are encouraged to apply)	9:00 am/3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Academic Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	9:30 am/last Thursday each month
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes excellence in teaching and optimal learning environment and provides for appropriate information resources to the University community.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/1st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommendations on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, use of land, parking and transportation.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am/3rd Friday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility.	TWO undergraduates	Three times a year (October or November, February or March and April or May)
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Ruth-Edward Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally meets three times a year (October, March and April)
ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: ONE Regular graduate & THREE alternate graduates. UAB: FOUR undergraduates & FOUR graduates.	Hearings are normally scheduled from 4:30 pm onward and last from three to five hours. Students applying to other committee must have flexible late afternoon/evening schedules. YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST TWO NIGHTS MONDAY-THURSDAY. Please provide the names and contact information for at least three references, as oral reference checks will be conducted for both committees.
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available in PDF format on the University Secretariat website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/>, or in Room 2-5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to the University Secretariat by **Friday, March 4, 2005**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Marlene Lewis, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member. Expressions of interest should be directed to Ms Ellen Schoeck, Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee.



KEEPING ACTIVE Avi Lewis speaks this Wednesday at the University of Alberta. COURTESY OF THE STUDENT'S UNION

Lewis sees wave of youth activists as heroes

THE TAKE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"But you're not looking at a change of government any time soon, so people are starting to resist in other ways."

However, he is optimistic that Canadians, like the Argentine factory workers, are taking matters into their own hands—even Albertans. A group of cattle farmers impacted by the mad cow disease crisis have formed a co-operative in Camrose, noted Lewis. Additionally, housing activists across Canada have been taking action, restoring closed buildings for public use.

"People know something is screwed with a system in which so much money is being made and increasing numbers of people are being left behind," he said.

While citizens may not be using elections as a way of changing the

country, an increasing number of people are using direct action and protest to affect change, he said.

"I'm really encouraged by a new wave of activism among young people that started around 1999 in Seattle and went through a lot of the big protests of the globalization debate and a lot of the protests of the anti-war movement. I think we're seeing lots of really idealistic young people," said Lewis, noting that the media often portrays activist youth in negative terms.

"I think young people taking to the streets, demanding change, fighting for affordable change, free tuition ... are the signs of a healthy society. I think those are the most idealistic people in our country and I think they should be celebrated as heroes. I don't think they should be misrepresented as troublemakers."

OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Tuesday, 1 March 2005

'Mile tax' will save gov't coffers, but hurt the environment

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA has long been a leader in dealing with the issue of vehicle emissions. Granted, they didn't have much choice in the matter (had they not done something to reduce emissions, the entire population would have long since suffocated under the thick smog), but through various policies, such as mandatory emissions testing with strict standards, they've shown that it's possible to keep emissions under control even without changing the car-bound ways of North American culture.

An important part of that successful strategy has been high gasoline taxes, which, while partly intended to pay for road maintenance and expansion, are also meant to encourage drivers to either drive less or purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles.

But for some in the California government, that's apparently been working too well. Gasoline consumption has indeed been dropping there and in some other states—and as a result, government tax revenues have taken a hit. And while clean air and a healthy environment may be all well and good, they evidently pale in importance when compared to the government's pocketbooks.

As a result, state officials are beginning to consider abolishing the gasoline tax in favour of a "tax by the mile," in which cars would be equipped with global positioning devices to keep track of how far they drive, and owners would be charged with the tax every time they fill up. California's neighbour Oregon has already begun testing a tax-by-the-mile, and California officials are watching the process closely.

Even putting aside the privacy concerns with such a system (and there are certainly important privacy concerns with the prospect of letting the government track the movements of every single car in its jurisdiction), it's a terrible idea. Since taxes currently make up a significant portion (sometimes approaching half) of gasoline prices, replacing those taxes with ones that are independent of fuel consumption would greatly reduce the advantage of owning a fuel-efficient vehicle. While drivers of gas-guzzling vehicles would likely end up paying about the same as what they currently do (or possibly less), those with gas-electric hybrids or other efficient vehicles would pay significantly more—for a regular commuter in California, the difference could easily approach \$100 per month. That would make purchasing a hybrid car, which can cost several thousand dollars more than non-hybrids, a far less attractive proposition, meaning fewer drivers will choose to make the purchase and the corresponding drastic cut in harmful emissions.

Proponents of the idea point to the road-maintenance purpose of gasoline taxes, noting that hybrid cars cause wear and tear to roadways just as much as any other vehicle. That's true, but driving does more damage than that, while fuel-efficient vehicles do far less of the additional damage. If gasoline tax revenues aren't providing enough to fund road maintenance, governments should find other sources of funding—one that doesn't discourage drivers from making the right choice for the environment.

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

Watch out, here come the elections

LOOK LEFT, LOOK RIGHT, LOOK UP, hell, look down, and you'll probably see some campaign posters, or campaign literature, or even campaigners practically begging for your vote. They're as unavoidable as the crushing realization that your nearly finished arts degree means nothing in the real world.

But, given their proliferation, it should be a lot easier for all your potential voters out there to actually get informed. So, please, speaking as someone who will be forced to endure at least a few more years of the SU, spend the next week getting to know your candidates. Then, for the love of God, vote.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Torture, mutilation of children is a violation of human rights

This is in response to Jenna Rodgers' article on female genital mutilation ("We don't have a right to impose our cultural norms," 15 February).

I could write a tongue-in-cheek letter about the deeply fond and protective feelings I have towards my own nether regions, and my wish for all women to experience the joys of intact gilly bits. I could survey men on whether they preferred juicy lady-petals or a desert-dry hole the average diameter of a matchstick. I could quote reports that infibulated women are two times more likely to die in childbirth, and four times more likely to deliver stillborn babies than intact women.

I could challenge Ms Rodgers to decide whether we have the right to impose such cultural norms as "genocide is bad" or "you shouldn't set fire to your daughter-in-law" on other societies.

But I don't have to.

If a grown woman truly wishes to have her labia saved off and the scraps sewn shut, that is her business. However, torturing and mutilating a child—and it is both torture and mutilation, don't kid yourself—is a violation of that child's human rights and a crime under international law. Period.

Achieving the goal of universal human rights for all people, regardless of age, gender, or country of origin, is a solemn responsibility. No amount of tedious relativistic preaching is going to make that responsibility go away.

CARLA MAXWELL
Science III

FGM is about human rights, Rodgers

In response to the article, "We don't have a right to impose cultural norms," by Jenna Rodgers (15 February): freedom from mutilation is not a cultural norm!

I can only hope that her crass and casual attitude towards "snippling" the clitt' and comfortable resignation that "we can't impose our cultural norms on another society" were specifically chosen to infuriate her reader and parody the typical palliation and hand-washing done by those who benefit from the subjugation of women.

Freedom from mutilation is not a cultural norm; it is a basic human right that should be granted to everyone, no matter what culture they are born in to.

Contrary to the title of Ms Rodgers' article, we have no right not to take a stance against this gross violation of human rights.

Not only does Ms Rodgers trivialize a major issue by criticizing people who express their outrage about FGM, saying it is little more than a way to feel "righteous," and that "we aren't doing anything to stop it" anyway, she also undermines the process of social change with her pat resignation. She concludes her article by stating that "well I know I can't be able to convince the world that [FGM] isn't benefiting these young girls," and "the only thing we



can do is fight for the sanitation of their tools."

First, I would like to point out that awareness and education are the first steps in instigating any social change, and, again that this is not a matter of imposing cultural standards, but is instead a human-rights issue. Secondly, to lobby for clean tools and anesthetics would only serve to condone and legitimize this institutional form of violence against women. If we have enough power and energy to fight for more "humane" methods of systematically violating young girls and causing them a lifetime of pain and suffering, why not use this energy to fight for the end of this horrible practice altogether?

JENNIFER STARCHUK
Arts I

The final word on same-sex marriage

I am sick and tired of the hypocrisy demonstrated by religious groups, especially with regards to gay marriages and families. Why is it that those who say they promote "God's" word are the first to stand up and spew hatred and prejudice? Is this what Jesus would do?

Specifically, with regards to Scott Brimacombe's response ("Homosexuals should accept God's love," 15 February) to Jeff Gagnon's excellent letter to the editor ("Homophobes, gays, can't just get along," 8 February); Mr Brimacombe admits "Christian spirituality is hostile towards homosexuals." What actual harm is the queer nation inflicted? The queer nation abides by the motto "live and let live" and, unlike the religious majority, we're not trying to take away anybody's rights, we're not recruiting, we're not corrupting anyone, and we don't have any hidden agendas. My marriage has absolutely no impact on you, and vice versa. So where does this hostility really stem from? Why are you driven to deny basic human rights to one particular group of Canadians?

Educated in Catholic schools, I was taught that "God is love"—it's just that simple. To choose compassion and love over intolerance and

hatred is really the message of most religions. Is the hostility, prejudice, and ignorance directed towards the queer nation really laying down your weapons of defiance as your creator requires, as Mr Brimacombe suggests, or does it just keep promoting hatred and fighting?

The citizens of the queer nation want to live peacefully in this world, free of judgment, harassment, and discrimination, and we have that right. Remember that you can learn more from your enemy than your friend. Dissect what you read in your Bibles and question all of it. Come to terms with why you feel so uncomfortable with homosexuality, if it's such a big issue for you.

Maybe it's time religious zealots feel some of the wrath that the queer nation has had to endure for far too long. Jeff Gagnon's letter inspired me to no longer turn the other cheek—from now on it's, "an eye for an eye." We're here, we're queer, and it's damn time you got used to it. Keep out of my marriage, my family, and my life, in turn, I promise to stay out of yours.

SUSAN BRUNE
U of A Employee

Berry's view of humanity 'pessimistic'

David Berry's view of humanity as seen in his editorial "Immortality would kill humanity," (15 February), seems to be overly pessimistic. His insinuation that the fear of death is necessary for human progress doesn't seem to make much sense.

Personally, if I were able to have a lifespan of a few hundred or thousand years, I would not be content to just "sit on the couch," as Berry suggests. I would want to have all sorts of different experiences, from travel to different careers to interacting with other people, who would all become more interesting the longer they lived. Just think of how much we would be able to learn and understand with a drastically increased lifespan, and then try to convince me that this is a bad thing.

Berry's assertion that without death, we would have no reason to live, ignores what it is to be human. Our lives do not need any further justifi-

cation. They are intrinsically good, and should be valued not for how we act in the face of death, but celebrated just because they are.

PAUL R. WELKE
Arts Alumnus

Santin right, but wrong

I mostly agree with Tony Santin's article on the state of northern Canadian sovereignty ("Canada risks sovereignty with lacklustre military," 15 February), and I feel it is an important issue that needs more attention. With that being said, I don't want to be a you-know-who Smith but I do not appreciate Tony Santin's skewing of the facts to serve the purpose of his article.

In regards to the Canadian Rangers while it is true that they're issued No 4 Lee Enfield rifles from the WWII era, this is not a disservice from the Canadian government. The Lee Enfield is a simple bolt-action rifle with few moving parts.

What this means is that it is simpler to operate and more reliable in Arctic conditions. The Rangers actually prefer this to the standard C7, as it basically fits itself with very little training and, as stated above, is more reliable in inclement weather. Also, if Santin had done a little more research on the facts, he would have seen on the Department of National Defence website that while Rangers do use their own "parkas and boots," they are compensated for the use of personal gear.

JASON FRASER
Arts II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered.



EMPTY FEELING Filling these seats will take drinks a lot cheaper than \$4.50. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NATHALIE NADAU

For a successful bar, SU, you have to aim pretty low



DAVID BERRY

Campus bars, despite what Alvin Law might claim, are in trouble. Though our esteemed VP of money likes to point out that both RATT and the Powerplant are doing better than last year, slightly-better-than-shitty is still just a mark above shitty, and when you factor in the price increase of most of the menu, any financial gains made by the two establishments, though welcome, are likely not a result of fixing the main problem with our campus beer holes: students, by and large, don't go to them.

Sure, every so often someone with lunch pangs might wander on just southeast of CAB, or take the elevator in SUB, but generally, outside of WOW and finals week, it seems as if most students are only marginally aware that we even have bars on campus, to say nothing of the fact that even fewer actually go. A quick look around RATT or the Plant after 6pm most nights will probably make you feel like a lonely, lonely individual.

For the SU to make our bars truly viable—and, for that matter, to give the U of A more of a community feel to it—people actually have to start going to bars, not just while they're already on campus, but even, just maybe, on Saturday. For bars to succeed, funny as it sounds, they actually have to be bars—places where people will go to drink and dance, and maybe love, if the specials are cheap enough. And for the SU to turn our beloved watering holes into bars, they're going to need to start appealing to the biggest market of them all: the lowest common denominator.

The lowest common denominator is what keeps a great many Edmonton bars successful. He is a Canadian-drinking, ballcap-wearing, happy-to-drink-his-beer-out-of-warm-bottles-so-long-as-it's-cheap kind of guy. Music begins at 97.3 and ends at 100.3, so don't try any of this "non-Nickelback" garbage. And by the way, he'd like to park his truck overnight. His female compatriot is awfully similar. She tends to favour a

96 approach to music, usually because she also tends to favour dancing to it. Her dancing fuel of choice is usually a highball, the cheaper the better, and she's generally at the bar either with her boyfriend or looking for one, hence the dancing.

This lovely pair makes up a ridiculous percentage of your bar-going public, and it's they who are usually absent from campus bars. And while there's undoubtedly a sizeable population that doesn't want anything to do with this lot, myself included, the amount of people who are like this or who will happily tolerate it greatly outnumber those who don't—a quick look down Whyte will prove that much. And so, if the SU really wants to make its bars successful, they're going to have to make the lowest common denominator as welcome as possible—Crush on Fridays and Ship Night are a decent start, by the way.

First, they have to realize that anything over \$3.25 for beer—in a bottle, remember—and \$1.50 for a highball doesn't count as a "special." They might also want to scrap the bands on any Friday or Saturday, unless they're miraculously booked Usher or The Killers—these LCDs want music they know, not bands. Other nights of the week, fine, but Friday and Saturday are their drinking nights, and damned if they'll be watching James Murchison when Bar None will be playing Beyoncé. A decent-sized dance floor is a necessity, and you should probably just close the kitchen after 8pm and open one of those portable hot-dog stands outside—it'll probably do better.

And if, for some reason, you don't think a University audience would go for this kind of thing, you don't need to look any further than 87 Ave and Schola's Pub (née The Library). In my first year, that was the place my Trotskyist German teacher would meet with her Trotskyist friends to discuss Trotsky and possibly literature. It didn't do so well. Now, it doesn't sell any type of beer you wouldn't see advertised during a sports broadcast, doesn't play any music you wouldn't hear on Much and has a dance floor in the basement, good luck finding a table on a Monday night.

If the SU really wants to have successful bars, they've got one market to go for. As for me, I'll be drinking in my basement suite. Alone.

gateway literary contest

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DEPART



ARRIVE

Quicker Than You Think.



Humanism to blame for sex-crazed 'Peter Pans'

KAT
TURCZYK

Jimmy is smart, sexy, funny and sweet when he needs to be. When Jimmy talks, everyone listens. His pastimes consist of playing guitar, travelling, and hardcore hell-skiing over the holidays. But Jimmy's favourite pastime is drinking at his usual bar on the weekends, where he successfully manipulates a hot chick in tight pants and a trendy haircut to come home with him.

Dudes love and admire Jimmy; they're his little apprentices. Women drool over him at first, but before you can say, "Would you like to come to my place?" believe him to be the most classless, cultureless coward they've ever met.

You've probably encountered Jimmy in the past, except you only remember him as "Swine." Call me psychic, but I can predict where Jimmy will be in 15 years: he'll be doing the exact same thing, retelling the exact same stories of his mind-boggling adventures in Myanmar and his mad skills playing guitar, luring you in like a used-car salesman. He'll ask you for your number, but he won't be calling you, because Jimmy never wants to grow up.

Beware, ladies, because we all know Jimmy or another version of him. This "Peter Pan syndrome" is a growing epidemic, leaving women all over the world clueless, disheartened, and without their virginities. But you can help.

Now, I'm not generalizing and saying that all men or only men are scum, or assuming that women are dumb—I'm just here to help those who are. That said, I blame poor Jimmy's poor upbringing on the era of humanism that our generation is living in.

Humanism is a perspective of thought that focuses primarily on the needs and concerns of humans, their reason, actions and motives—none of which are far from someone like Jimmy's frame of mind. Humanism is giving sex-crazed folks everywhere the excuse that emotionally manipulating and pissing people off is totally acceptable. In Jimmy's mind, reason prevails. Jimmy's motive is sex, his actions are that which will get him sex—disregarding any appalling things he may have to do to get it—and reason tells him that if he puts on a façade of charm and smooth talkin', he will get what he wants. He's a little puppy who is given a doggie bone every time he pisses all over your shoes.

Let's compare what selection we have in modern times with that of

yesterday. Look at the poetry of the Troubadours in French medieval times, when men were enslaved by passion and fired by respect. Buddhist martyrs postponed the attainment of nirvana to alleviate the suffering of others. The ancient Greeks admired a hero like Hector, who was described as a "doer of deeds and a speaker of words," not a "doer of chucks and a speaker of slurring"; suffering was a test of honour and heroic obligation. Men in the past valued community, they respected their ancestry, they called their mothers. I was looking at an evolutionary poster the other day, and I found the Neanderthal more attractive than today's man.

Remember ladies, when in the bar, pay attention to hand gestures. They may resemble that of a flashy man trying to sell you something really cheap.

Hopefully all the Peter Pans like Jimmy will soon realize that their meticulous and calculated tricks no longer possess their same magical effect, and they will be forced to leave Never Never Land to join us in a place called reality.

David Alexander's Tuesday TOP TEN

Signs the Devil is getting old

- 10 Went for a nap and accidentally forgot about the damned boiling on the stove.
- 9 Pitchfork now more of a "pitchcane."
- 8 Secretly finding heavy metal loud and offensive.
- 7 Not sure if that's the sulfur or the All-Iran.
- 6 Now ordering large-print edition of *Sinner's Digest*.
- 5 Refuses to get hearing aid, so everyone has to shout at the Devil.
- 4 Using a lot more coupons when buying souls.
- 3 Lake of Fire not the only thing flaring up, according to his prostate exam.
- 2 Content to sit back and let the Bush administration do all the work.
- 1 Orthopedic souls.

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FILE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SHAWN ENBOW
ALL ABOARD Buses are cheaper, more convenient, more reliable—why on earth are any of you still driving?

Cars don't hold a candle to the bus, my friends



PHIL
HEAD

Living in Millwoods, I'm forced to spend two hours on the bus each day getting to and from classes, and I have a confession to make: I actually enjoy doing so. Furthermore, even if I had a vehicle or had bothered to get my driver's license, I would continue to take the bus to school—and so should you.

While most people are aware of the innumerable environmental benefits of public transportation, this being Alberta, no one particularly cares. But while most truck-loving Albertans show little concern for depletion of the ozone layer, depletion of their bank accounts is another matter entirely.

The financial benefits of public transport are as obvious as they are numerous. If you were to take the bus, your monthly transportation expenses would amount to a whopping \$54 for a bus pass. Period. This is an amount that will barely cover the parking costs of the cheapest reserved lot permit at the University. If you're fortunate enough to even get a permit. Even if

you do manage to snag a spot, chances are that it is on the opposite side of campus from your first class, all while bus riders are dropped off right in the middle of campus.

Car costs don't end with parking, though. Let's assume, for argument's sake, that you're given a free car as a graduation present, you rich bastard; you still have to pay for insurance, fuel, and maintenance in order to operate it. Although our beloved premier recently decided to introduce caps on insurance premiums—despite his earlier statements implying that socialized car insurance somehow justified Pinochet's bloody regime in Chile—resulting in insurance now only costing half a year's tuition instead of a full year's, it's still rather expensive. Meanwhile, since the cost of oil has hit record highs, giving Alberta even more money to not reinvest in social programs, it also means record costs to run your vehicle. Add to this the cost of oil changes and tune-ups, and suddenly the freedom of the open road seems a little less free and a lot more dumb.

Meanwhile, the bus offers a level of freedom unknown to the car driver. Bus service is regular and predictable. Most major routes have a bus go by every 15 minutes, sometimes more, depending on whether or not it's the peak period. They even give you the

exact times the buses go by. Need to go down Whyte Ave? Simply hop on one of the innumerable buses leaving the University station.

Since the driving is left to a professional, you can use your travelling time constructively. It's possible to do homework, read a novel, or simply observe the people who make up an interesting cross-section of society. It is even possible to sleep on the bus, and with training, one can learn to wake up just before one's stop, a luxury hopefully unavailable to most car drivers.

Public transit can even be faster than a car for those students who live downtown or on the north side; simply use the LRT in all its traffic-avoiding glory. Even if the LRT does smell like urine—a mark of all world-class cities' subways, I'm told—you can't deny that it is quick and convenient. I, for one, wait with bated breath for the completion of the southern expansion of service.

And for those few occasions when it is not practical to take a bus, such as leaving a bar at 3am or buying groceries, a taxi is just a phone call away. Furthermore, with all the money you are saving by taking the bus, you can actually afford the cab ride.

Thus, though I pursue higher education, I don't aspire to be anything other than a bus boy for the rest of my life.

Canadians have to start respecting *all* religions



TYSON
DURST

It's really no secret that religion is at the forefront of many debates and discussions these days. Whether it's same-sex marriage, evolution versus creationism, or nearly any time George W. Bush opens his mouth, religion comes into play.

While I believe that Canada is a society where each person's beliefs and opinions are generally respected, I have been finding that my religious beliefs, which happen to be in the minority, are constantly mocked and ridiculed by others when I bring them up. I am, of course, talking about my belief in ancient Greek "mythology."

I must say that I'm really offended when people refer to my religion as "mythology," like it's just some fairy tale from the land of make-believe. I don't go around pissing off Christians by referring to Christianity as "mythology," nor do I refer to

the Qu'ran or other sacred texts as "legends."

Yet people don't take me seriously at all when I'm trying to convince them that Zeus the thunder god is the key to our salvation by handing out free copies of Homer's *The Iliad* and other sacred Greek texts in SUB. I'm also giving away free DVDs of the classic *Hercules* (that's the Roman spelling) cartoon, but people still seem to prefer the "cool" religions like Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and others that are "organized," while openly scoffing at mine.

Well, did either Jesus or Mohammed have his own hit cartoon series? Did either of them have a power ring that gave them the strength of ten ordinary men? Did the Bible or Qu'ran ever mention any great creature sidekicks that repeated every fucking sentence twice in a high-pitched voice? How about kick-ass villains like the evil wizard Daedalus or hulking monsters like the Hydra for our savours to defeat and test their mettle? Not the last time I checked.

And according to Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, Jesus just let his tormentors beat the crap out of him. Heracles (that's the Greek, or true spell-

ing), whom I believe to be the true son of God, would never have taken that kind of shit. He would have been tossing those assholes around like rag dolls and beating them with their own arms and legs that he would have ripped out of their sockets with his legendary strength.

Regardless of whose religion could kick the other's religion's ass, we all deserve to be treated equally. We're not so different, you know; while others may believe in heaven and hell, I believe in the river Styx and Hades.

While some may believe in the creation story of Adam and Eve, I happen to subscribe to the story of Prometheus and Pandora. Many of my beliefs are actually quite similar to those described in "official" religions, and yet I am marginalized and cast aside as a religious nut-ball.

Of course, every religion, and its canonical texts, has its own claims to authenticity and each one is always struggling for tolerance and respect in society. I think that Canada is such a place where tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others is highly valued. As an individual, I try to adhere to these values the best that I can. All I ask is that you do the same for me.

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FACING THE MUSIC Doug Auchenberg.

Bears hockey player suspended after positive drug test

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

That a university student has taken some over-the-counter drugs and dabbled with marijuana isn't usually news. However, a student athlete doing the same things can cause a media storm and create intense scrutiny, as Golden Bears hockey player Doug Auchenberg learned last week.

Auchenberg, a rookie forward who led the Bears in scoring in the first half of the season, has been out of the lineup since 4 December when he disclosed to team staff just prior to taking a randomly administered drug test that he would likely have a positive result for cannabis and ephedrine. His absence had been disguised as an injury until last week, when CIS handed him a four-month suspension, retroactive to 4 December, after the positive test result was confirmed.

"When the test was happening I pulled our head athletic therapist aside and I just told her that 'I know what's in my body and I'd like to tell you guys and own up to it,'" said Auchenberg. "I thought it would be more important prior to tell them before the test results came back because then I'd have a bigger problem with [head coach Rob Daum] if I let it back from him."

Despite the confession, Daum admitted that he was angry and thought about kicking Auchenberg off the team. After considering the situation for a few days, Daum decided to let him remain with the team, but suspended him indefinitely.

"You can just remove him from the team, but we felt we wanted to be in a position to help our athletes when they run into these types of problems, regardless of what they might be," said Daum. "We don't want to be in a position where athletes are scared to come to you with problems they might have. So we decided to work with him, help him and hopefully keep him here for years to come so that he can get his degree."

One of the requirements the team has imposed on Auchenberg is that he receive counselling regarding his drug use. Auchenberg admitted to using the marijuana at a house party he attended, and says the ephedrine use was unintentional.

"I have an asthmatic condition, and I had a severe cold at the time which was causing me to gag and throw up on the bench," said Auchenberg. "So to feel better I took a nasal decongestant to clear my nasal passages, and it had ephedrine in it."

Intentional or not, when Auchenberg returns to the Bears' active roster in the fall there may still be some lingering resentment from his teammates, something that Daum and team captain Gavin McLeod both acknowledged.

"There are some guys who feel this is a breach of trust and that there's no recourse for it, and that [Auchenberg] will never be forgiven for it," said Daum. "There are other guys on the team who feel that those things happen and that we have to move forward and help him with it."

"We're obviously disappointed with him, but at least he had the guts to stand up and admit to it," said McLeod. "It still looks bad on the program, and it's bad because it paints the rest of us with the same brush."

UBC swimmers make it eight

Men's and women's Thunderbirds both claim their eighth straight national championships

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

To no one's surprise, the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds cruised well ahead of the pack at the Kinsmen Sports Centre over the weekend in the CIS swimming championships, handily claiming their eighth straight national championships on both the men's and women's sides.

Both streaks are CIS records, with the men now passing the Toronto Varsity Blues, who won seven in a row from 1987 to 1993, to claim the longest championship streak in history.

"We certainly didn't come here with the intention of going home without the banners," said UBC coach Tom Johnson, who was named the men's coach of the year. "I expected the men to win, but we had to overcome quite a bit of adversity in our women's program, with the loss of some key players. These other kids had to really close ranks and step it up, and they did. That was really exciting."

Led by male swimmer of the year Scott Dickens, the Thunderbirds men finished with 750 points, 224 ahead of the Calgary Dinosaurs, who have finished second in all eight years of UBC's streak. The Montréal Carabins were third. Dickens won five gold medals, one silver, and one bronze, and set new CIS records in the 50m and 100m breaststroke. In the latter race, he became only the second Canadian in history to finish in under one minute, much to the delight of his coach.

"He's moving up the ranks towards a much better world level of swimming," said Johnson. "We have some big hopes for him, and that was a pretty good demonstration of what he's capable of doing."

UBC's women finished with 680.5 points, while Calgary, with 473, finished second for the fifth year in a row. Toronto was third with 341. The champions were led by former rookie of the

year Caitlin Meredith, who won four golds, two silvers and a bronze.

"It's pretty fun trying to keep the streak alive," said Meredith. "A lot of our alumni have e-mailed us and told us that we have to keep the streak alive."

While UBC's swim program is clearly far ahead of other Canadian schools, Johnson expressed hope that the eight-in-a-row streak would only lead to better things for his team. "I feel like anything else is unacceptable," he said. "Now we'll see if we can go to nine. I mean, if you get this close you might as well try to go to ten. We're only losing three kids [to graduation], so the core of the program is still there. We hope we can just keep building our program, and measure ourselves against the best programs in the world."

UBC dominated the major awards as well as the standings, in addition to Johnson's coach of the year honours and Dickens' swimmer of the year award, Thunderbirds Callum Ng and Haylee Johnson were named male and female rookie of the year, respectively. The women's swimmer of the year was Jennifer Carroll from the Université du Québec à Trois Rivières Patriotes, who won three golds and a silver while breaking one CIS record and tying another. Byron MacDonald and Linda Kiefer of Toronto shared women's coach of the year honours.

The weekend also saw three world records fall. Stephanie Dixon, a Paralympic athlete from the Victoria Vikes who was born with one leg, set new marks in the S9 category in the 100m and 200m backstroke, as well as the 200m individual medley.

Johnson was pleased with the overall level of competition at the meet—various CIS records were broken and several Canadian records were challenged—and said he hopes it will help lead more people to take notice of university swimming in the future.



T-BIRDS ON TOP The UBC Thunderbirds dominated the podium at the CIS championship.

"I think CIS needs to take a serious look at swimming and appreciate the quality of the performances," he said. "This is one of their best sports, and they need to showcase it a little more than what they've been doing. They can promote it, they can show it on TV; they can do all those things the same way they do basketball and volleyball and hockey. This is a very good sport in the Canadian mosaic, and they need to recognize that."

Mixed results for swim Bears and Pandas

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

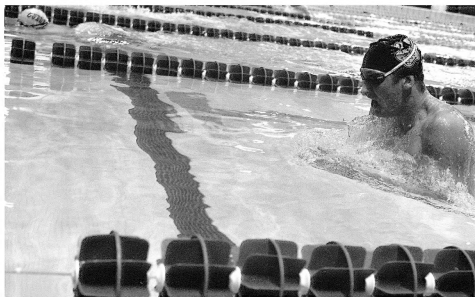
First-year head coach Sam Montgomery had a goal all season for his Pandas and Golden Bears swim teams: a top-ten finish at the CIS championships.

For the Golden Bears, that goal came down to the 4x100m medley relay, the final race of this weekend's meet and one that Montgomery called their strongest event. Jan-Lok Chang, Jesse Classen, Barry Kim and Mike Vander Ham put in an inspiring effort, finishing fifth behind powerhouses UBC, Calgary, Toronto and Montréal and wowing the pro-Alberta crowd. The race moved the Bears into ninth place, and was vindication for fifth-year Bear Kim, who was disappointed by his earlier performances during the weekend.

"I was pretty livid behind the blocks. I was really riled up and went out really fast and it kind of hurt on the way back," said Kim, the Bears' captain. "Physically, I think I gave my best; I think mentally I had a really tough time. I think I let the emotions get a little too much to me and let focus fall."

"We had some very fast starts from our third and fourth swimmers, but they didn't call it us on them, so no harm, no foul. It was a great race," added Montgomery.

"It's bittersweet. I had personal-best times in all my races, but it's tough; it was a fast meet. I would have liked to have placed higher, but I can't swim any faster than what I did," admitted Classen, who, like Kim, swam his last race for the U of A. "Marching out to that podium and trying to stay focused while trying to wave to all the friends and family was just a great moment,



MAKING A SMALL SPLASH The Golden Bears exceeded expectations in finishing in ninth place.

and the crowd really got behind us. I wish I had got to do it a few more times."

For the Pandas, things weren't so sweet, as the four-woman squad only managed a twelfth-place finish. Third-year Panda Maria Breikreutz put in a solid effort, swimming in seven finals and finishing in the top eleven in all four of her individual events, including a surprising eleventh in the women's 400m freestyle. "I knew that if I would go out fast I would end up near the other girls, and that's what I did," said the backstroke specialist.

"Maria Breikreutz was our strongest swimmer, which wasn't a surprise," said Montgomery. "But I wanted a bit more from a couple other swim-

mers."

Also impressive was first-year Panda Elsa van Goudoever, who finished sixth in the 200m individual medley and ninth in the 50m freestyle. "Elsa's tough. She was just a little off her best times, but she did all we could ask of her," said Montgomery, who estimated that 90 per cent of his team's 36 swimmers were personal bests.

Overall, Montgomery was happy with the performance of his teams, which also included Nicole Schnapp and Jessica Sherwood on the Pandas and Rylan Kafara on the Bears. "Everyone moved up from where they were seeded; now it's just a matter of recruiting more athletes who can final at a meet like this," he said.

Hockey Pandas squeak past Bisons

Manitoba plays surprisingly well, but Alberta still wins both games to claim conference championship

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

Eight Pandas hockey players played their last home games over the weekend, and the Manitoba Bisons decided to make the occasion memorable.

In two of the closest—and most entertaining—matches of what is now a 103-game Pandas unbeaten streak, the Alberta squad came out on top to sweep the best-of-three Canada West championship series and claim their fourth consecutive conference crown. But the Bisons didn't make it easy.

In game one on Friday, Manitoba used tight defensive play and a stellar performance from goaltender Heather Ash to keep the score close in a 2-1 loss despite being outshot 38-9. Special teams proved the difference, as a Danielle Bourgeois power-play marker late in the second period was the eventual game winner; the Bisons couldn't convert on some excellent power-play pressure of their own while trying to tie the game late in the third.

"Against this team you're never going to limit them to not getting chances; that's impossible," said Bisons head coach Jon Rempel, who was named the conference's coach of the year earlier in the week. "I thought that if we could play a game where there weren't a lot of power plays the game would actually be very close, but their power play's just so good."

The next night it looked for a time like special teams might just prove the undoing of Alberta's streak. The Bisons took a 3-2 lead early in the second period after scoring two power play goals 37 seconds apart. Their tight defense then shut the Pandas attack down for the next ten minutes, but a power-play goal by Canada West rookie of the year Tarin Podolski tied the game late in the second, and the Pandas scored twice more to claim a 5-3 win and a series sweep.

Alberta had won four regular season games against Manitoba by a combined score of 24-3, so the close games over the weekend came as a bit of a surprise. But the Bisons were on a high after upsetting the Regina Cougars in the semifinal a week earlier to clinch their first-ever berth in the national championship tournament.

"I wasn't expecting them to come out that strong, but I have a new-found respect for them," said all-star blue-liner Delaney Collins-Pye, one of the



NOT SO FAST Alana Grimolfson of the Manitoba Bisons hooks Pandas forward Jenna Barber during Saturday's game.

eight graduating Pandas. "I welcomed these games, because they made us realize that we have some work to do if we want to win a national championship. We need to work on our defensive play a little bit, especially our penalty kill, and we need to be very prepared when we go to nationals, because we're going to meet teams like Manitoba that are going to give us a good game."

Pandas head coach Howie Draper also praised the Bisons, noting that they kept the scores close despite strong performances from the Pandas.

"I wasn't disappointed with our play," he said. "My only disappointment was with some of the penalties that we took. We didn't have to take those, and they were untimely and took away our flow a little bit."

Rempel said that his team's strong performance was pretty much what

he was hoping for as they prepare for the national championship, which will be hosted by McGill University in Montréal from 10-13 March.

"Our goal in coming here was to compete hard and maybe put the thought in their heads that if we meet

them in the national final, it's not just going to be a cakewalk," said Rempel. "What you have to do is sort of what we did [Friday]: protect the middle of the ice as much as you can, keep stuff to the outside, and be patient and wait for opportunities."

AWARDS

Canada West's major women's hockey awards, as announced last week:

First team all-stars

Danielle Bourgeois, forward, Alberta
Kelley Rizzaroff, forward, Regina
Kristen Lagg, forward, Alberta
Delaney Collins-Pye, defense, Alberta
Jacqueline Stroeve, defense, Lethbridge
Teryne Russell, goaltender, UBC

Coach of the Year

Jon Rempel—Manitoba Bisons

Rookie of the Year

Tarin Podolski—Alberta Pandas

Marion Hilliard Award

Danielle Bourgeois—Alberta Pandas

Canada West Player of the Year

Danielle Bourgeois—Alberta Pandas



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Wrestling

Alberta wrestlers won three gold medals, one silver and eight bronze at the Canada West wrestling championship in Calgary on 18 and 19 February. Anthony Kulak (54kg) was the lone Golden Bear to win gold; he won both of his matches at the meet, including an upset of Calgary Dino Hui Nyugen, who was defending conference champion and CIS bronze medalist. Kulak was named the male wrestler of the year for Canada West. Jarrett Wall (72kg) won silver, while Chase Wong (57kg), Sterling Turner (61kg), Bram Ratay (65kg), Joe Harrington (68kg), Ross Macdonald (82kg), and Mike Hulbert (130kg) won bronze. As a team, the Bears finished third in the overall standings.

Erica Sharp (53kg) and Heidi Kulak (65kg) won gold medals for the Pandas, while Jaclyn Hedges (80kg) and Kathleen White (90kg) won bronze. The Pandas finished fourth overall.

With the exception of White, all of the medalists qualified for the CIS championship, which will be held this weekend at Brock University.

Track and Field

The Golden Bears finished second and the Pandas finished fourth at the Canada West track and field championship in Regina over the weekend. The Saskatchewan Huskies men finished first, while the Calgary Dinos women emerged victorious.

No Pandas finished at the top of the podium in any event, but two—Susanna Kupper in the pole vault and Sarah-Hoyles in the triple jump—finished second. Jenilee Way earned a third-place finish in the weight throw, and the Pandas' 4x200m and 4x400m relay teams also

placed third.

The Bears managed three first-place finishes, including a one-two finish (Neville Wright and Antoine Boussembom) in the 60m dash. Brian Roggefelt came out on top in the 600m run, and the Bears' 4x200m relay team also finished first. The 4x400m and 4x800m relay teams finished second, as did Mike Archambault (pole vault), Jason Moss (triple jump) and Matt Doherty (shot put). Doherty also finished third in the weight throw.

Men's Hockey

The Calgary Dinos swept the UBC Thunderbirds in two games over the weekend to win the Mountain Division semifinal series. Calgary won 6-0 on Friday and 3-2 on Saturday. The Dinos now advance to the division final on the road next weekend against the top-ranked Golden Bears, who had a bye through the semifinal round by virtue of finishing first in the regular season.

The Great Plains Division semifinal saw the third-ranked Manitoba Bisons sweep the unranked Regina Cougars, 5-1 on Friday and 9-6 on Saturday. The Bisons will visit the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies next weekend for the division final. The winner of that series will earn a berth in the national championship, set for 24-28 March in Edmonton, though the loser will only be eliminated if the Dinos upset the Bears.

Alberta had six players named to the three Canada West all-star teams, which were announced last week. Goaltender Dustin Schwartz, defenseman Jeff Zorn and forward Brad Tutschek were named first-team all-stars. This was the fourth consecutive year that Zorn earned first-team all-star honours, after being named to the all-freshman team in his first year. He's the first player in conference history to make the first all-star team four times. Bears defenseman Perry Johnson and forward Ben Thomson were named to the second team, while forward Jeff

Kehler made the all-freshman team.

Women's Volleyball

Larissa Cundy of the Pandas was named a first-team Canada West all-star last week, and teammate Tawana Wardlaw made the second all-star team. The top-ranked Calgary Dinos, who finished the regular season with a perfect 20-0 record, led the way with three all-stars, including Joanna Niemczewska, who was also named Canada West player of the year for the second year in a row. Dinos coach Kevin Boyles was also named coach of the year, while Calgary's Lauren Perry earned rookie-of-the-year honours.

Men's Volleyball

The Golden Bears were recognized for a near-perfect regular season (19-1) with three individual awards and three all-star selections. Fourth-year Bears outside hitter Nicholas Cundy was named the Canada West player of the year, left-side hitter Alex Gaumont-Casias won freshman of the year, and middle Leo Carroll is the conference's nominee for the Dale Iwanosko Award, which recognizes a combination of athletic and academic skill, as well as community involvement.

Cundy was named to the first conference all-star team, as was setter Brock Daviduk. Power hitter Aaron Schulha made the second all-star team.

Women's Basketball

The Simon Fraser Clar, Regina Cougars and Victoria Vikes won Canada West gold, silver and bronze over the weekend at Simon Fraser, and clinched berths in the CIS championship to be held 11-13 March in Winnipeg. Victoria scored upset victories over the Winnipeg Wesmen in the conference quarter-final and the UBC Thunderbirds in the bronze-medal match to earn their berth.

20 October 2004 Mario Kourouger

21 January 2005 Lewis Lapham

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THE GATEWAY



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS The Golden Bears pose with their Canada West gold medals Saturday in Saskatoon.

Alberta volleyballers win gold, silver

ANDREW RINFREE
Sports Writer

The University of Alberta's volleyball teams reaped the benefits of solid regular seasons over the weekend in the form of a Canada West gold medal for the Bears and Canada West silver for the Pandas.

It was only fitting that the Golden Bears capped off their near-perfect conference season with a gold medal. The players and coaches have felt for several weeks that anything less would have been a disappointment given their impressive 19-1 record in regular season play.

The gold medal came after two victories in Saskatoon at the conference Final Four, beginning Friday night with a straight-set semifinal victory over the Manitoba Bisons (25-23, 25-18, and 30-28). Dallas Soutas led the Bears with eleven kills in the match, while Justin Wong kept the ball off the floor, registering nine digs on the evening.

The following night the Bears

faced off against the Trinity Western Spartans, who have been ranked second for most of the season, in the Canada West gold-medal match. It took four sets for the Bears to dispose of their west-coast rivals with scores of 26-28, 25-22, 25-20, and 25-17. Nicholas Cundy led the team in kills and points with 16, and Wong again led the team in digs with 15.

The Pandas had a much tougher fight in the Canada West finals than their male counterparts. On Friday night they beat the UBC Thunderbirds in a five-set semifinal battle (23-25, 25-22, 19-25, 25-22, and 15-10). The play of Tawana Wardlaw was particularly impressive as the Pandas left-side hitter registered 23 kills on the evening.

"I thought we played really well on Friday against a tough opponent who we hadn't beaten yet this year," said Pandas head coach Laurie Eider. "On neutral ground, playing a team we hadn't had success against and that's loaded with talent, I thought we held up really well."

If Friday night was a challenge for

the Pandas, then Saturday night was even more challenging as they faced off for conference gold against the CIS top-ranked Calgary Dinos. Calgary made quick work of the Pandas in front of their hometown crowd, beating Alberta in straight sets (25-20, 25-20 and 25-21). Joanna Niemczewska, the Canada West female player of the year, led the Dinos with twelve kills. The Pandas have been unable to beat the Dinos all year, but this was their first straight-sets loss.

Despite the disappointing loss to their southern rivals on Saturday, the Pandas were able to secure themselves a berth in the CIS national championship with their victory over UBC the previous night. The Bears had already secured a berth in the men's nationals. With the Canada West season behind them, both teams will move on to the CIS finals held next weekend. The men's championship will run from 4-6 March at Laval University in Québec City, while the Pandas will travel to Saskatoon for the women's final 3-5 March at the University of Saskatchewan.

All-star Cundy siblings help lead the way for volleyball Bears and Pandas

ANDREW RINFREE
Sports Writer

Siblings and U of A volleyball players Larissa and Nicholas Cundy get along fairly well these days—but it wasn't always that way. When the pair were five and six years old, an argument over a castle Nintendo was building escalated to the point where he threw a wooden block at his sister.

"It was the only time I've ever had stitches, because he threw a block at me," notes Larissa.

The Cundys are quite pleasant to each other now, though, and actually share quite a bit in common. The similarities are easy to spot: both wear the number one on their jerseys, both are leaders on the court, and both are highly competitive. A quick glance at the game-day program will reveal that Nicholas and Larissa both graduated from Harry Ainlay High School, and that both are enrolled in the faculty of arts at the U of A. And if a person were to hang around after the game, they might notice the Cundys using sign language to communicate with their parents, both of whom are deaf.

"It's normal because that's what we grew up with; we didn't experience anything else," says Larissa. "We were signing before we were talking."

"There's not much difference," adds Nicholas when comparing his parents to other families. "It's just that you don't talk to them on the phone, and there's the captioning on the TV all the time."

In addition to teaching Larissa and Nicholas to sign and read people's body language, their father got them involved in volleyball at a young age, and both siblings credit their parents for sparking their competitive nature on the court.

"We get [our passion to compete] from our parents; our parents were competitive athletes," says Larissa.

"Dad just got out early, playing around," Nicholas adds. "Before we were on any school teams he had us out in the backyard just playing around."

Playing around the backyard with their father is perhaps one of the reasons that the Cundys are two of the best university volleyball players in the country. Nicholas was named Canada

West player of the year for the 2004/05 season, finishing fourth in the country in service aces per game (0.33), sixth in points per game (3.83) and seventh in kills per game (3.19) leading the Bears in kills for most of the season. He plans to play professionally in Europe post-graduation and has aspirations to suit up for team Canada at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Larissa is also dominant on the court: she led the Pandas in assists per game this season and was named a first-team all-star. She hopes to get involved with coaching volleyball as a career at the university level, or even in a high school, when she leaves the U of A after this season.

It would be tough to dispute that the Cundys are excellent volleyball players, but Nicholas and Larissa do debate which of them is better on the court.

"He is," says Larissa.

"No, I would say she is," responds Nicholas. Eventually, they agreed that it's hard to compare their positions and that they are both very competitive on the court. Luckily, this time no blocks were thrown.

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Hoops Bears upset Huskies on road

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

The smoke that was the Canada West men's basketball playoffs has cleared, and one of the teams left standing comes as a slight surprise.

The Golden Bears brought the season of the eighth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies to an abrupt end this weekend with a 2-1 win in the best-of-three Central Division championship series.

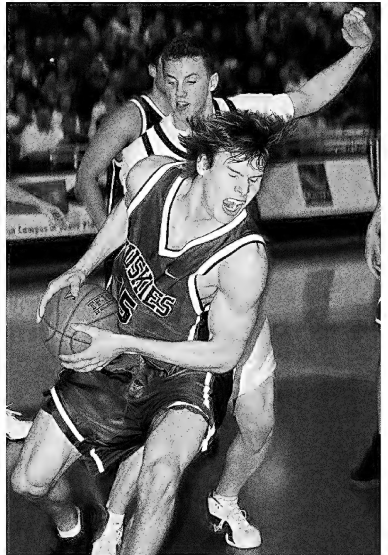
The Bears won game one 77-75 on Thursday night, then avenged a 71-63 loss in game two on Friday with an 83-75 win in Saturday's deciding game. In addition to the Central Division crown, the series win also gives the Bears the right to host the Canada West Final Four, which will be played this coming weekend in the Main Gym.

In what may have been their most impressive victory of the season, the Bears were able to erase a 13-point Huskies lead over the game's final twelve minutes to steal the win on Thursday night. Bears guard Mike Melnychuk credited strong bench play and a defensive adjustment for the comeback.

"We had some of our second-string guards like Dean Whalen and James Hudson and Tyson Jones come in and they just changed the complete tempo of the game," he said. "We switched to a zone defense and it really threw [the Huskies] off. I think we shot close to 80 per cent from the field in the second half. It shows how deep our team is, when you can go into a playoff game like that and have your second-string guys come in and basically play the whole second half and do a great job to get us over the hump when the starting guards aren't producing."

While the starting backcourt may have had its troubles on Thursday night, forward Scott Gordon continued to be unstoppable offensively, as he scored a game-high 25 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the win.

"Scott's been awesome lately; he's been doing it all," Melnychuk beamed. "I think teams realize now they've got to match up with Phil Sudol and Scott



TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE Huskies forward Andrew Spagrud drives to the net.

Gordon, because they can both give you 20, 25 points every night. They can hurt you in so many ways."

While Gordon put up a big performance on Thursday night, two of the Bears' senior players stepped up on Saturday in the series-deciding game. Fourth-year post Phil Sudol took it to the Huskies for 27 points and eleven rebounds, both game highs, en route to the eight-point win. Melnychuk, as is standard in games where the Bears have had their backs against the wall, also came through for the team with 21 points and a game-high five assists.

Although happy to be returning home for the Final Four, Melnychuk wants his team to maintain the intensity level they've found on the road in the last two weeks.

"It's going to be just as hard or even harder [to win] because everyone's going to be that much more wired to be playing at home," he said. "I think we have to come in with that same intensity, a little bit of swagger and a little bit of a chip on our shoulder. Everyone's doubted us from day one this year and we've been on a mission to prove them wrong."

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Out with the charm, and in with the cheese

Bride and Prejudice

Directed by Gurinder Chadha
Starring Ashwarya Rai, Martin Henderson,
Daniel Gillies, Namrata Shirodkar
and Naveen Andrews
Now Playing

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When it comes to *Bride and Prejudice*, a Bollywood-inspired take on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the guiding principle is out with the corsets, minuets and afternoon tea parties—and out with the charm and the wit as well.

But where screenwriter/director Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*) leaves out the stuff of a movie of substance—essentials like sharp dialogue and winning characters and performances—she more than satisfies with heaps of “multicultural” style. The actors are doe-eyed and washboard-abbed (most of the female leads are former pageant queens) and there's no stop to colourful musical sequences. Heck, there's even an inexplicable guest appearance by pop star Ashanti. Any of these factors do not a top-notch movie make, but they do contribute to a film that's moderately flashy, brought together to enjoy spectacle to keep you bouncing to its bhangra beat.

And it's *Bride and Prejudice*'s Bollywood musical schtick that makes the movie so borderline endearing. In the movie's first dance sequence—an engagement party at a manor house—the audience is given some cute crib notes for the rest of the show's Bollywood surrealism, as one character gives a self-referential translation of everything from the shots (“this is the part where the guy sees the girl and the girl sees the guy”) to the lyrics of the song everyone inexplicably breaks into. It's all a bit heavy-handed and ridiculous—no different from any other number



in the film.

As for that “guy” and “girl” mentioned earlier: Balraj “Raj” Bingley (*Lost*'s Naveen Andrews) has come to Hicksville, India from the UK in search of an old-country bride, and his sights are on Jaya Bakshi (Namrata Shirodkar).

But the real girl-meets-boy tale we're interested in is that of Jaya's younger sister Lalita (Ashwarya Rai) and Raj's rich and stoggy American pal Will Darcy (Martin Henderson). Lalita, like so many feisty Disney heroines, is beautiful, strong-minded and not looking for love—least of all with her obvious, bland romantic match, Darcy. The two spar over such presumably heady topics as American imperialism, there's a bit of conflict

over another potential suitor—the dreamily PC Johnny Wickham (Daniel Gillies)—and plenty of ridiculous musical numbers before they're eventually holding hands and making goo-goo eyes into the sunset.

Raj and Henderson are both infuriatingly flat actors—one-note and often a little self-aware of the camera like a couple of news anchors turned movie stars. But at least in their mutual lack of any sort of emotion, they make a well-balanced pair—a couple of pretty puppets to move through the real draw of the film, the musical sequences.

Always too consciously colourful (take one aerial shot of a literal rainbow of saris), Chadha

reveals in a cornball visual style, culminating in what's possibly one of the more memorably awesome-stupid moments in modern musicals, a grand love song between Lalita and Will that pillages silly stereotypes with giddy abandon: a duet accompanied by sombrero-ed mariachi's cuts to a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon which lands on a beach lined with a never-ending black gospel choir, singing Raywacht lifeguards, and blonde surfer dudes who descend on the love-struck couple in a big, musical, cheesy hug.

A little good taste and wit could have ruined such a delightfully awful moment, and for that, you can be glad Chadha threw those upstanding qualities out with the crumpets.

Werewolf movie Cursed from the start

Cursed

Directed by Wes Craven
Starring Christina Ricci, Joshua Jackson,
Jesse Eisenberg, Shannon Elizabeth and Mya
Now Playing

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor

The question with *Cursed* isn't whether it's stupid or not—it's stupid—but whether it's endearingly stupid or annoyingly stupid. And, while there is some appealing idiosyncrasy about the film as it goes on, *Cursed* firmly lands in the annoyingly stupid camp.

Cursed stars Christina Ricci as Ellie, a young woman who works on the *Late Late Show*. Her parents were killed in a car crash, leaving Ellie in charge of her high-school-aged brother Jimmy (Jesse Eisenberg). The two find themselves in a late-night auto accident (caused by an unnaturally large wolf beastie). One werewolf attack later they're “cursed with the mark of the beast” and desperately need to search for the werewolf that attacked them or be forever damned to turn into hairy killers during the full moon.

But it took years for Ellie and her little brother to be cursed onscreen; *Cursed* has a troubled history. Shot in early 2003, most of the film was scrapped and the movie was almost entirely reshot and rewritten.

The fact that the film is merely a schlocky-bad horror film and not a boring and tedious horror film is probably attributable to the reworking. However, if you fish a sandwich out of the garbage and clean it until it looks nice, you still shouldn't eat it. Even after everything, the film ended up being delayed an additional five months to the relatively dead month of February.

The bumpiness history of the production shows in the film, too. Scott Baio, who apparently had



a large part in the original version, does literally nothing in the final film except get cut by Craig Kilborne from the *Late Late Show*, who in turn hasn't been the host of *Late Late* for quite some time.

The film does have some enjoyable moments; however, they all stem from the comedy generated by the wooden performances and ridiculous situations.

From overly obvious pregnant pauses that go undetected, to special effects too unrealistic to shock anyone, *Cursed* almost endears itself to the audience enough to be enjoyable. However, about midway through, the film starts to be so stupid it gets annoying; everything is sold straight without the necessary wink and nudge. Perhaps if the ending had been just a touch more over the top with an unexpected twist on genre convention—such as Jimmy ending up with the

guy who had a crush on him instead of the girl of his dreams—the movie would have worked better.

But there are more problems with the script than the boring plot. Writer Kevin Williamson's overly verbose dialogue may have sounded smart when we were in junior high watching Dawson's Creek and *Scream*, but it's quaint and shallow in 2005. At the same time, director Wes Craven seems to have lost all of the vitality that brought about *New Nightmare* and *Scream* in his mid-'90s resurgence. It almost seems like neither can admit that they're washed up and making a cheese-ball movie like *Cursed*.

Of course, a film doesn't need to be intentionally bad to be enjoyable as cheesy comedy, but considering this one's more or less a flop—even after a reshoot—it's cursed to be no more than an average rental.

SPARED FROM THE CURSE

The troubled production of *Cursed* wasn't without casualties. Not only did Scott Baio's part get reduced to a joke—but about his part being cut—but several other notable figures had their parts removed or rejiggered. Funny no one's ever heard them complaining about getting the sack.

- Parts for Clusters **Lance Bass**, **Omar Epps** and **Skeet Ulrich** were allegedly cut because of scheduling mishaps. Mind you, Wes Craven might just have easily decided to cut their roles out of the film.

- A large subplot with a third main character played by **Cory Feldman** was removed from the movie to make the entire thing less complicated.

- The role of Jenny, played by **Mya** in the film, was initially played by **Mandy Moore**. Moore even shot most of her scenes before being replaced for mysterious reasons.

- Dawson's Creek alum **Joshua Jackson** was added at the last moment in the pivotal role as **Christina Ricci's** boyfriend.

- According to Ricci, the character of Jimmy wasn't initially written as her brother; that happened in the rewrite.

Gonzo, but not forgotten

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

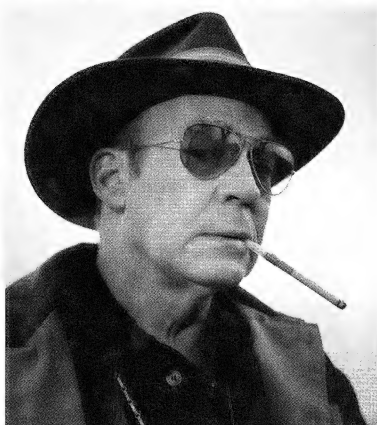
It's hard to picture someone who better embodies journalism—in all its supposed romanticism and glamour—than Hunter S. Thompson, the great Dr. Gonzo.

On 20 February, Thompson, an avid firearms enthusiast, shot and killed himself in his Colorado home, ending his nearly 50-year career as a pioneering journalist and author. Thompson is perhaps best known for his book (and subsequent movie) *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, but he's remembered for his creation of "gonzo journalism," a writing style which blurred the line between fact and fiction and often created bizarre, drug-enhanced tales that aimed to get to the greater truth of the story by not reporting the facts head-on.

Measuring Thompson's impact on the world of journalism is a problem in itself. He was a champion of the counterculture, widely imitated and a hero to budding writers everywhere who liked the idea of infusing their reporting assignments with parties, women and drugs. But the real revolution behind his work was how he took journalism away from the cold facts. His story subjects—often mundane—were made into starting points for much greater and more psychedelically colourful social rants.

While Thompson has continued to inspire, his time of glory feels long passed. It's no longer the early '70s, a time when the spirit of the '60s had not quite vanished, rock 'n' roll was still kicking and when Thompson wrote some of his best work.

Ultimately it seems somehow fit-



ting—morbid, but fitting—that Thompson took his own life. "He wanted to go out on top of his game," his wife said after his death. He surely did, and for anyone who was aware both of his social significance and his style of on-edge living, his death seems at once heartbreaking, but also somehow poetic. Like so many stars before him, Thompson will be immortalized as larger than life, never having the chance to produce a less than spectacular work of art.

Fans and critics alike are surely going to miss Thompson, but even in

the heaviest hearts there remains a spot that feels perhaps Hunter's decision deserves our respect. It would seem a shame, and almost more a cause for sadness, if instead of a headlines-grabbing finale he slowly faded away.

I mentioned that Thompson was an avid firearms enthusiast, and in a final wish that seems to both summarize his hobby and his personality, family and friends have reported they will be firing Thompson's ashes out of a cannon. Leave it to Hunter S. Thompson to quite literally go out with a bang.

In the society of teenagers

Mad Bomber Society

with *Run Runner*, *Whiz Kids* and *Pasty Whites*
New City
Wednesday, 2 March at 7pm

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you were 14, Wednesday nights didn't amount to much more than homework.

But if it was a PD day, Wednesday night might have meant staying up late playing videogames, or taking in a movie at the cheap theatre. Or, if you were a teen with a somewhat more exhilarating social life, you might have been skanking on the dance floor at an all-ages Mad Bomber Society show.

"When Mad Bombers first started out, the gigs that we played were only two or three bucks at the Ritz Diner on the west end," says band ringleader Rich Bomber.

"It was a restaurant so it could be all-ages, plus there'd be a licensed area so people could drink. People could have a great time because everybody could come out and have fun. That doesn't happen anymore."

But that's not to say people aren't having fun at MBS shows. Rich explains that nowadays, the business aspect of playing live creates a challenge in making shows accessible to younger crowds, though they often try.

"I like playing to all-ages crowds because the kids seem to be more into it and you get more of a punk vibe than doing a bar show," says drummer Jay Bomber.

"If you play at a bar, people will go out anyway just because there's booze. But with all-ages shows, kids are there

because they want to see you. They want to go to a show and have a good time."

Regardless of the age of the crowds, the band says it's not difficult to find people having a good time at their shows, something they attribute to their infectious energy.

"It looks like we're having so much fun on stage because we always have these stupid pranks on our faces and we're laughing and goofing off," Rich explains. "It's not just part of the show; it's our personality. You have to be on the ball if you're in Mad Bomber Society, because if you're not paying attention, someone's going to come up behind you and rip your pants down on stage."

The six-piece's pants-pulling camaraderie is the result of being together for almost eight years. According to Jay, the band's success relies on the members' personal dynamic.

"There is an equal amount of hatred and an equal amount of love. You have to be able to butt heads, but at the same time you have to be able to embrace your brother."

After taking a break in 2004 to recharge and regain their chemistry, MBS has plenty on the go. They're preparing to tour later this year, and they're currently finishing recording their second full-length album. Much like their previous LP, *Atomic A-Go-Go*, they are doing much of their own recording. And that hands-on approach is just part of how MBS remains so accessible.

Says Rich, "Our main goal is touring and playing live. We're not interested in becoming super-big rock stars or anything like that. We're not quite an anarchist collective, but it feels like it sometimes."

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THE GATEWAY

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American musical taste doesn't cut it



TYSON
KABAN

It's quite easy to win a Grammy if Norah Jones is any example. All you have to do is take up the piano, adopt a stage name befitting your great-grandma and croon. With her soft-core serenading, Jones has won at least 35 statues—all of which I'm sure she's had melted down and fashioned into something practical like a bidet.

But the answer to the Grammy Awards across the pond, the Brit Awards, requires a bit more than a neutered name and mediocre jazz standards to take home the prize. You need to be edgy, flamboyant and create music that's so good it can't help but be misunderstood by the North American masses. Now York's Scissor Sisters are all those things and more, which explains their clean sweep of the international categories at the Brits a couple of weeks ago.

Scissor Sisters are a notoriously gay band, and their music is groundbreaking, not only for its unflinching homosexual content, but for its disco-inspired sound and danceability. Their debut album has been well-received by critics, and band members Jake Shears, Ana Matronic, Babydaddy, Paddy Boom and Del Marquis have been spreading the ill-reputed reputation they've built from playing every underground venue in New York.

Beating out fellow American nominees Green Day, Maroon 5, Outkast, The Killers and Kanye West, the



band's flaming success at the Brits is just another example of the American music industry's inability to reward innovative and controversial musical acts that don't sell millions of albums.

In Scissor Sisters' case, it's not an issue of talent that has prevented them from gaining success and recognition in their home country; it's one of marketability. It's just not realistic to expect that a sequined band of homos plus one fag hag could have universal appeal in the States, no matter how good their music is.

But in Britain, where gay is just another word for happy and a fag is a cigarette, it's not surprising that Scissor Sisters were lauded at the Brit Awards. The British perfected pop and can recognize good music when they hear it. They also embrace alternative sexuality and don't care if people like guys or girls or both. Take Robbie Williams: if anything, the question of "Is he or isn't he" has only added to his allure with UK fans.

So are the Scissor Sisters doomed to an overseas-only fate like fellow American Anastacia? For those unfamiliar with the one-named songstress,

Anastacia has more fans, earns more money and sells more records in Europe than she ever has in America. Her lack of Yankee success could be due to the fact that, with her deep voice and tall stature, she's often mistaken for a transsexual. But like the Scissor Sisters, it really comes down to the fact she's a purveyor of unapologetic dance-pop, a genre not that popular Stateside.

Whether the Scissor Sisters will ever breakout in the States and start winning Grammys is yet to be seen. I'm sure it will be awhile before we see them strutting their skin-tight stuff on an American award-show stage backed by talking watermelons and giant birds (courtesy of Jim Henson's Muppet Workshop) as they did during the opening of the Brit Awards.

Although the band is clearly confident and unconcerned with the politics of the American music industry, there's still something Scissor Sisters must do if they're ever going to get some attention in the States: change their names, take up the piano and croon like they've never crooned before.



Uncle Outrage
Bonecock Vol 1
Independent
www.uncleoutrage.com

IRIS TSE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With memorable song titles such as "Bonecock," "Octopus Angel," and "Punk Attack!" it's hard to take Uncle Outrage's Bonecock Vol 1 seriously. And while it's hard to tell just by the track names if Uncle Outrage specializes in novelty rap or screamo, it's clear that the band, fortunately, is neither genre.

What Uncle Outrage is is surprisingly intelligent, sharp, witty, and just pretty darn good. This Edmonton

band has found the perfect combination of electronica, rap, hit-making pop and punk. The result is batches upon batches of delicious tunes.

Writing sarcastic lyrics wrapped up in catchy hooks, Uncle Outrage barely takes itself seriously and you should follow their example. The only flaw in this CD is that the guitar riffs sometimes sound redundant from track to track. But then, squeezing 17 tracks into a CD is a rather ambitious move. Regardless, this is one slick, fun CD that you'll want to throw on and dance to with abandon.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2005/2006 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006 and pays \$1800/mo. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2005/2006 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.* Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Don Iverson, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca, 492-6669) by noon on Friday 4 March 2005**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

LINE EDITORS

The Gateway is accepting applications for the following line editor positions* for the 2005/2006 publishing year:

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* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/hiring/

** Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

THE GATEWAY

No business like snow business

Performance artists Jickling and Salez make snow-shovelling an artform

TRACEY LINDEMANN-JARVIS
Arts Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP)—Shovelling show isn't exactly the first thing that comes to mind when talking about art, but that's precisely what two artists from Dawson City, Yukon, want to change.

Artists Hannah Jickling and Valerie Salez—who have been known for digging designs in the snow—took their shovels to Montréal's streets this February as part of the city's self-governed artist co-operative Dare-Dare's Dis/location project.

Salez began shovelling the snow outside of her apartment building as a way to combat her boredom and loneliness after moving from the Yukon to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2003. Then one night, neighbour and fellow northern Canada expatriate Jickling caught her in the act—and brought her video camera along for fun.

The documentation of jickling and Salez's snow shovelling excursions is as much a part of their exhibit as the physical act of shovelling. Old videotapes show the two artists hammering it up for camera, capturing observers' blank stares and the spontaneity of their creative snow shovelling.

"I think by creating it in public spaces, there's a different sense of accountability," says Jickling. "You walk into a gallery pursuing art,

whereas when you just run across some people who are shovelling snow, or doing a performance on the street, you get a totally different kind of audience, so that's what we're really interested in."

Salez & Jickling have certainly witnessed a wide range of reactions to their creations, from complete understanding to total shock and awe.

"You walk into a gallery pursuing art, whereas when you just run across some people who are shovelling snow, or doing a performance on the street, you get a totally different kind of audience, so that's what we're really interested in."

HANNAH JICKLING,
SNOW-SHOVELLING ARTIST

Salez recounts with animation the time when she was telling a stranger on a bus about her work. "When I told her, she literally looked at me and went, 'I have never heard of that in my

life,' and then she stopped talking to me the rest of the way," she says. "But I knew in her brain she was thinking about it, and I like that."

Indeed, Snow Shovelling came about as an attempt to make people re-examine the use of public space and the re-appropriation by way of an unconventional artistic form.

Aside from the political aspect of their work, Salez and Jickling first started shovelling out of a childlike desire to just play in the snow. "What if I went out and played that? Would that be so wrong?" Salez asks rhetorically. "Why can't I feel those feelings again?"

While all those who stumble upon their work may not understand it, the artists say that some are very enthusiastic about its simplicity. "Some people get really into it and say, 'I'm going to make checkersboards for my mailman!'"

Manipulated public landscapes are a manifestation of psychic geography, a term Jickling and Salez use profusely. They hope that those who happen to come across their work adopt the idea and apply it to their own milieu.

"I really like planting the seed and not needing to take authorship over it," says Jickling.

"It becomes a roving project that has no authors, and people can make it what they want it to be in their own spaces."



Damon & Naomi

The Earth Is Blue
Sonic Urthon
www.damonandnaomi.com

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Earth may be blue, as the title of former Galaxie 500 members Damon & Naomi's album suggests, but so are all of this duo's songs.

Through the record's ten tracks of mournful horns and gently strummed guitar strings, a lilting, haunting melody winds its way like an endless azure ribbon. Unfortunately, by the time you've reached the end, you may have wished that Damon & Naomi had added a few more colours—a hint

of red, a flash of violet, a louder beat, a pinch of energy.

With roughly an hour's worth of blue notes on their CD it's only a matter of time before all the tracks sound rather grey.

The album flows smoothly from the opening "Beautiful Close Double" to "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" to "The Robot Speaks" without ever changing rhythm.

Listened to casually, one doesn't hear ten songs, but one: an enormous, never-ending chorus of sorrow to softly thrumming strings.



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Candidate Forums

Lister Hall Cafeteria Forum

Tuesday, March 1 at 5:00 PM

Faculté St. Jean Forum

Wednesday, March 2 at 12:00 Noon

SUB Stage Debate #1

Thursday, March 3 at 12:30 PM

SUB Stage Debate #2

Friday, March 4 at 12:00 Noon

Myer Horowitz Theatre Forum

Monday, March 7 at 12:00 Noon

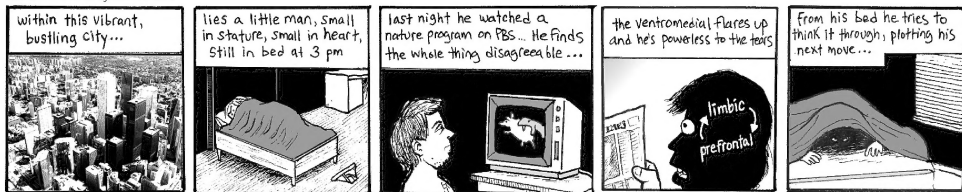


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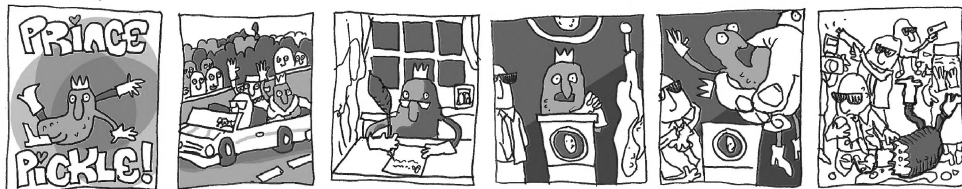


CHEW OUT YOUR CANDIDATE

BIG CITY BLUES by Mike Winters



PRINCE PICKLE by Bill Benson



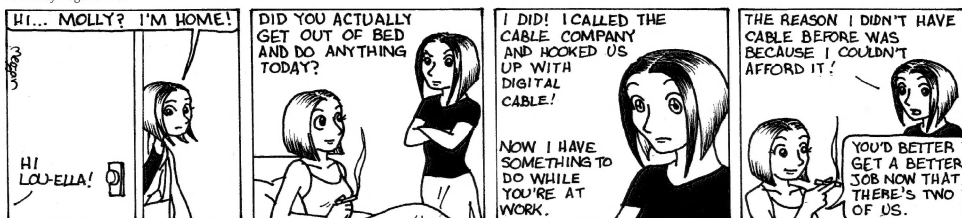
FRANK BARON, NSO by Jeff Martin



HEY BEN by Tracey Greene



ANNA by Megan Simko



MOSHPIIT HEROES by Allison and Amber Chipman



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Stoll's on Whyte is now hiring energetic and outgoing students for the following positions: security, beer/tub and bartending. Please e-mail resume with references to stollsi@yahoo.com.

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Non-profit out-of-school care seeks creative persons to work with school-aged children. \$8-\$10/hr. Call Kerri-Lynn at 484-7622, fax 486-1791 or e-mail easca@telusplanet.net. Come join the FUN!

EARL'S Bourbon WEM is hiring for all positions FT/PT. Apply Now! Train during reading week! Apply on location at WEM!

WEEKEND CASHIER POSITIONS are available at various Hughes Petroleum locations

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Alta Care Resources is looking for energetic people to work with youth in crisis. Must have 2 years post-secondary and a reliable vehicle. Contact office 451-6040 ext. 230226, fax 453-3723, ss_card@telus.net.

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PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial: 44-Party Ads "Jokes" Stories & MORE! Ladies-R-Free! Try It NOW! 18+.

Know a(n) Jeff @ McMaster doing OTT? Go out w/ him New Year's Eve @ Union Hall? E-mail Me.champagnenights@hotmail.com

133t LINES OF DAN'S DRIVER

cries! Well, reading week is sure over./cries



LEANNE FONG

GUNG HAY FAT CHOI A group of colourfully adorned youth helped mark the beginning of the Year of the Rooster at the annual Chinese New Year parade in San Francisco over reading week.



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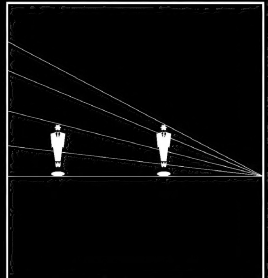
and many more...

COME CHECK IT OUT!





Which man is taller?



(Actually...both are the same size)


things are not always as they seem

did you know?

most U of A students
(70%) drink alcohol twice
a month or less often

based on fall 2003 survey data collected from a random sample
of 634 students at The University of Alberta
www.studentlifeeducation.com

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